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FOR ACTION

RECOMMENDATION TO THE EXECUTIVE BOARD FOR PROGRAMME COOPERATION

UNICEF Maurice Pate Award

The Executive Director recommends that, for 1992, the UNICEF Maurice Pate Award be granted to the Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee and that the Executive Board approve an allocation of $25,000 from general resources for this purpose.

1. Nominations for the 1992 Maurice Pate Award were invited from all UNICEF field offices, National Committees for UNICEF and all the Executive Board member Governments. By the closing date of 31 July 1991, a total of 14 nominations had been received as follows: two from Africa; five from Latin America and the Caribbean; six from Asia; and one from industrialized countries.

2. All 14 nominations were presented to the Bureau at its first regular meeting on 19 and 20 September 1991. While recognizing that there were a number of deserving nominees, the Executive Director - with the endorsement of the Bureau - recommends that the UNICEF Maurice Pate Award for 1992 be given to the Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee (BRAC) for its outstanding contributions in providing exemplary service to the poor and most vulnerable populations, children and women, and its innovative ideas in providing basic education, especially to girls, and health care.

3. BRAC was founded in 1972 after the devastating upheavals of the liberation war. It is probably the largest indigenous non-governmental organization (NGO) in the developing world, with over 4,700 full-time workers (plus over 6,000 part-time primary school teachers) providing exemplary service to the poor and most vulnerable populations, the children and women. It has developed its strategies and methodologies mostly through "learning by doing", although in a systematic fashion. Ideas and modules are first tested in a district, and if they prove to be successful, they are later expanded to scale.

4. BRAC works in both economic and non-economic sectors. Its rural development programme consists of group formation, conscientization, skills development training and access to credit. The loans are provided by BRAC to promote and support income-generating activities both by individuals and collectively. Training or technical support, when required, are also provided by BRAC. Individual loans requiring no training or technical support from BRAC include paddy husking, traditional agriculture, small trading and rickshaws, while those requiring training or technical support include poultry, cow rearing and sericulture. Collective loans requiring technical training, as well as significant organizational and management inputs, comprise deep tubewells, rice mills and brick fields, etc.

5. BRAC is also engaged in a number of social sector programmes which, among others, empower women, cater for abandoned women, bring oral rehydration therapy (ORT) into every rural household and extend primary health care and basic education to the poor. The ORT extension project began in 1980 as a 10-year effort to teach 15 million women in Bangladesh how to prepare oral rehydration solution from home-available ingredients. It has now been successfully completed. Similarly, BRAC has been a principal partner among NGOs in providing immunization to children under one year old.

6. In a country where only 33 per cent of the population 15 years and older are literate and 85 per cent of women cannot read, write or understand numbers at a functional level, BRAC initiated a primary education programme in 1985,

with experimental schools in 22 villages in response to requests from people in rural areas. By late 1989, the programme had expanded to 2,500 schools. Another 2,000 schools were opened in 1990 and 2,000 more in 1991. It aims to develop a replicable primary education model that can provide, in a three-year period, basic literacy and numeracy and knowledge and skills for the poorest children who as yet remain unreached by the formal school system to enable them to lead a better life.

7. BRAC non-formal education schools are potentially one of the most innovative ideas in the universalization of primary education. The programme focuses on the girl child (70 per cent enrolment) and employs teachers who are underqualified by government school standards. Yet the achievements are most remarkable - a drop-out rate of 1.5 per cent for the full three-year programme (loss being due primarily to the moving away of families) and a daily attendance of 95 per cent or higher. Younger children aged 8-10 years take a three-year course. Statistics indicate that 95 per cent of those who have finished the three-year programme have passed government examinations allowing them to enter the fourth grade or higher in the formal system. Success is attributable to many factors, including community ownership and management of schools, intensive training followed by close supervision and support, and structured guidance on what the children should learn and how.

8. A second group of schools are for older children aged 11-14 years, again 70 per cent girls. Drop-out and attendance rates equal those of the younger children. The course is only two years, but 87 per cent of the students have passed examinations to enter government schools in the fourth, fifth and sixth grades.

9. It is an exemplary achievement well-deserved of international recognition.

Background of the Award

10. At a special session on 11 November 1965, the Executive Board approved the recommendation of the Executive Director that the Nobel Peace Prize money be used to establish a fund in memory of Maurice Pate, the first Executive Director of UNICEF (E/ICEF/537). Approval in principle was also given to a suggestion that the fund should be used to strengthen the training or experience of people serving in child welfare-related fields in countries with which UNICEF was cooperating. It was believed that a memorial fund which contributed actively to the general purpose of UNICEF would have particularly appealed to Mr. Pate, and it was agreed that a more detailed plan would be submitted to the May 1966 session of the Board.

11. In May 1966, the Board approved a plan submitted by the Executive Director (E/ICEF/542, paras. 76-83) for a memorial fund that would give recognition to the value of regional training facilities in fields benefiting children. Each year, the fund would honour an institution in a developing country that adapted and offered its services to people from countries in the region. The selected institution would be given some modest assistance to strengthen its services to other developing countries.

12. By the end of 1978, the original funding and contributions for this Award were exhausted and, in 1979, the Executive Board approved the continuation of the Award from general resources (E/ICEF/P/L.1906 (REC)).

13. At its 1988 session, the Executive Board approved the recommendation that the Board confer annually the UNICEF Maurice Pate Award, as detailed in document E/ICEF/1988/P/L.37, for extraordinary and exemplary leadership in, and contribution to, the advancement of the survival, protection and development of children, whether on a national, regional or global scale. The Award could be conferred upon an institution, organization or individual with or without governmental affiliation. A timetable and procedures for the nomination and selection process were to be established by the secretariat (see E/ICEF/1988/13, annex I, paras. 45-47, and resolution 1988/9).

14. By broadening the criteria for recognition to include (a) achievements on behalf of children, (b) providing of resources to further those achievements and (c) the creation of examples lending themselves to emulation, the Executive Board can use the Award to encourage significant efforts on behalf of children. While encouraging leadership for children by individuals, the monetary benefits of the Award can be used to further activity, whether training, experience exchange or direct programme activity.

15. At its 1989 session, the Executive Board decided that the legislative procedure for selection of the Award recipient, as set forth in document E/ICEF/1988/P/L.37, would be further refined to reflect discussions in February 1989 with the Bureau and with various delegations (see E/ICEF/1989/L.14 and E/ICEF/1989/12, decision 1989/22), with the selection decision to be taken by the Board through mail poll, upon recommendation by the Bureau (in the last quarter of the year preceding the Executive Board session at which the Award is to be presented).

16. At the September 1989 Bureau meeting, the officers of the Board expressed the view that no Government or government-related officials should be nominated, that nominations should be sought from Board member Governments and that the Bureau should review and evaluate all nominations. In addition, they requested that equitable geographical rotation be ensured in the selection process. A document incorporating these recommendations for the award criteria was prepared for submission to the 1990 Executive Board. However, after consultations between the Chairman of the Board and the secretariat and in view of the overcrowded agenda for the 1990 regular session, it was decided to defer submission of the new document to the 1991 regular session and to implement in practice and as practicable the above recommendations for the 1991 nominations.

17. The revised criteria for the UNICEF Maurice Pate Award, which also took into account views expressed by the new officers of the Board in September 1990, as contained in document E/ICEF/1991/L.2, were approved by the Board at its organizational session on 5 February 1991 (decision 1991/2).

18. The UNICEF Maurice Pate Award has been given as follows:

Year	Institution	Region
Prior to 1970	Various institutions	Africa, Asia and Americas
1970	Al-Azhar University, Egypt	Middle East and North Africa
1971	Regional Early Childhood Study, India	South Central Asia
1972	National Institute of Child Health, Tunisia	Middle East and North Africa
1973	University of Ibadan, Nigeria	West and Central Africa
1974	Asian Centre for Educational Innovation for Development, Thailand	East Asia and Pakistan
1975	Caribbean Food and Nutrition Institute	Americas and the Caribbean
1976	Family and Child Institute, Mexico	Americas and the Caribbean
1977	United Nations Asian Development Institute, Thailand	East Asia and Pakistan
1978	University of Nairobi, Kenya	Eastern and Southern Africa
1979	Nutrition and Child Welfare Committee, Zaire	West and Central Africa
1980	Not awarded	
1981	College of Health Sciences, Bahrain	Middle East and North Africa
1982	University of the West Indies (regional institution)	Americas and the Caribbean
1983	Pan-African Institute for Development	Africa
1984	International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research, Bangladesh	Global

Year	Institution	Region
1985	National Institute of Public Co-operation and Child Development, India	South Central Asia
1986	The League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies	Global
1987	The Catholic Church of El Salvador	Americas and the Caribbean
1988	Pembinaan Kesejahteraan Keluarga (Family Welfare Movement), Indonesia	East Asia and Pakistan
1989	Madame Suzanne Mubarak, Egypt	Middle East and North Africa
1990	Professor Olikoye Ransome-Kuti, Nigeria	Africa
1991	Child-to-Child Trust, United Kingdom	Industrialized countries

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